

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01748 300950Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 NSC-05 SS-15 ACDA-07 /048 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3015

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1748

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI TW
SUBJECT: SHARK HUNT EXERCISES

REFS: (A) STATE 061289, (B) TAIPEI 1304, (C) ROC WEEKLY STATUS
REPORT FOR MARCH 10, 1977, (D) 74 TAIPEI 0510, (E) 73 TAIPEI 1078

1. IN REF A DEPARTMENT ASKS FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION
AND EMBASSY VIEWS CONCERNING THE PURPOSE, FREQUENCY, AND
SCOPE OF SHARK HUNT ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE EXERCISES
(ASWEX'S).

2. PURPOSE: PARAGRAPH 2 OF REF E STATES IN GENERAL TERMS
THAT ASWEX'S ARE "JOINT US/ROC" EXERCISES. TDC'S COMMAND
HISTORY FOR 1973 STATES THAT PURPOSES OF ASWEX'S ARE TO:
(1) IMPROVE ROC NAVY ASW CAPABILITIES; AND (2) IMPROVE
US/ROCN COMBINED ASW OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES. EMBASSY
RECORDS SHOW THAT SINCE 1973 THE RATIONALE FOR THESE
EXERCISES HAS REMAINED THE SAME.

3. FREQUENCY: EMBASSY AND TDC RECORDS SHOW SHARK HUNTS
HELD CONTINUOUSLY SINCE 1973. TDC'S RECORDS SHOW THAT IN
1971 FIVE ASWEX'S WERE HELD, BUT WITH NO NAME ASSIGNED.
NEITHER THE EMBASSY NOR TDC HAS ANY RECORD OF ASWEX'S
BEING HELD IN 1972. IN 1973 SIX ASWEX'S WERE HELD, FOUR
OF WHICH WERE NAMED "SHARK HUNT." FIVE SHARK HUNTS WHERE
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HELD IN 1974, THREE IN 1975, AND FOUR IN 1976. TWO HAVE
ALREADY BEEN HELD THIS YEAR (JANUARY AND FEBRUARY); TWO
MORE ARE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL AND MAY, WITH A POSSIBLE
THIRD ONE IN SEPTEMBER. TDC IS CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED TO
REQUEST FROM CINCPAC THE SCHEDULING OF EIGHT SHARK HUNTS
PER YEAR (TWO PER QUARTER). THE FREQUENCY OF EXERCISES
THIS YEAR AND IN THE PAST HAS, THEREFORE, BEEN WELL

WITHIN CINCPAC GUIDELINES.

4. IN OUR VIEW, THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED SHARK HUNTS COULD BE CUT, WITHOUT TOO MUCH DIFFICULTY, TO ONE PER QUARTER. TDC PLANNERS HAVE INFORMED US, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE NUMBER OF EXERCISES IS CUT LOWER THAN THIS, READINESS FACTOR WILL SUFFER UNACCEPTABLY AND BENEFITS OF EXERCISE WILL BE LOST.

5. WITH RESPECT TO THE SCOPE OF SHARK HUTS--TDC HAS INFORMED US THAT THE SCOPE OF ASWEX'S HASN'T CHANGED VERY MUCH SINCE 1973. EMBASSY RECORDS SHOW THAT, DURING 1976 AND 1977, THE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT, SHIPS, SUBMARINES, AND PERSONNEL ON BOTH THE ROC AND US SIDES HAS REMAINED ABOUT THE SAME.

6. TDC PLANNERS HAVE INFORMED US THAT IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO CONDUCT MEANINGFUL ASWEX'S, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT, AT A MINIMUM, ONE SUBMARINE AND TWO COMBATANT SHIPS--PREFERABLY ONE FRIGATE AND ONE DESTROYER--BE INCLUDED IN THE EXERCISE. SLIGHTLY LOWER ON THE LIST OF ESSENTIAL PARTICIPANTS ARE HIGH-VALUE-TARGET (HVT) SHIPS. THESE ARE THE AMMUNITION, FUEL, OR TROOP-CARRYING SHIPS WHICH AN ENEMY SUBMARINE IS PRESUMABLY TRYING TO SINK. LAST ON THE LIST OF PRIORITIES FOR PARTICIPANTS IN SHARK HUNT EXERCISES ARE THE P-3 AIRCRAFT (ALWAYS NUMBERING FEWER THAN SIX), WHICH HAVE A SHIP-TO-AIR COMMUNICATIONS ROLE. WE TEND TO AGREE WITH TDC'S VIEW THAT THE SCOPE OF SHARK HUNTS IS ALREADY QUITE LIMITED. IF FURTHER CUTS ARE TO BE MADE, MODEST REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE MADE
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IN THE FREQUENCY, NOT THE SIZE, OF THESE EXERCISES.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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